

## CITY OF HOUSTON-

**Sylvester Turner** 

Mayor

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March 12, 2019

David Collinsworth, General Manager/CEO Brazos River Authority P. O. Box 7555 Waco, Texas 76714-7555

Via electronic and First-Class Mail

Re: Allens Creek Reservoir

Dear Mr. Collinsworth:

In response to your February 27, 2019 letter, I do not know the sources of your information regarding the City of Houston's position on Allens Creek Reservoir. Let me assure you that no one who spoke to me could have concluded, as you did, that "the City no longer desires to negotiate any such agreement, or to move the project forward at all." My purpose in writing you today is to suggest that, in the future, we avoid reliance on messengers and intermediaries, and instead let the principals and their agents bring the Allens Creek Reservoir project forward to completion. I also add, respectfully, that, contrary to anything you may have heard or thought, Houston is ready to make such other and further agreements as needed to produce the water supply that Allens Creek Reservoir can bring to Southeast Texas; Houston has no desire to abandon its significant financial commitment to Allens Creek and thereby forego an important future municipal water supply. I have been advised of no draft agreements, no planning meetings, and no further discussions of how to move forward on the design and permitting of Allens Creek Reservoir, and I understand that Water Use Permit No. 5851 was not final until late last year.

Recognizing Houston's continuing commitment to Allens Creek Reservoir, I recommend that we take the following steps to move the project forward:

- 1. Provide banking information for BRA so that Houston can pay the last \$500,000 due under the 2014 Water Rights Protest Settlement Agreement. Houston has appropriated those funds already and can reimburse BRA promptly once we have the correct information.
- 2. Schedule a series of conferences among those with decision-making authority to develop such other and further agreements as needed to apportion responsibility for design and permitting costs and implementation. To date, Houston has heard nothing regarding further agreements from BRA.
- 3. Finally, please keep in mind that Houston would not have made the commitment to Allens Creek Reservoir that it did, upon request, only to abandon that future water supply a few years later. BRA has seen customers who would use the water under Permit 5851 come and

go over time. But, Houston's need for Allens Creek Reservoir water in the future, which is the basis of our commitment, is unchanged.

I welcome the opportunity to work together successfully as we have in the past, to complete what we started. In order to do that, we need to begin immediately to put aside any issues which preclude a successful working relationship on the Allens Creek Reservoir project which will be such an important economic engine for the region, and Texas as a whole.

Thank you for your continued consideration in these matters. I know we can work together again to complete the project as we envisioned it so many years ago. Southeast Texas is counting on us to collaborate effectively to make Allens Creek Reservoir a reality.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner

Mayor